

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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EDITOR

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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

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THE TITANIC HORROR.

"Nearer My God to Thee" played the band aboard the great Titanic, as she upended and plunged below the icy waters of the North Atlantic, carrying down into the depths upwards of fifteen hundred souls. Upon the bridge, true to the traditions of Anglo-Saxondom upon the waters, the captain sank with his ship. Gathered upon the decks were those fifteen hundred brave men who had stood aside to greet their certain death that their women and their children might be given what opportunity there was to be saved. No word comes of panic; no necessity was there to guard the lifeboats that the women and the children might be placed in them. John Jacob Astor, possessed of all that should make life worth living, bade his bride farewell and stayed to face the same doom as others. Whatever he may have done in life, death found him a hero.

What a scene the words of this morning's cable bring before one! What an ending to a trip begun under such favorable auspices, the maiden voyage of the world's greatest and newest liner, the ship provided with every luxury that man's ingenuity and money could provide, with a passenger list including many of the best known people of two continents!

Since that November day, nearly eight hundred years ago, when the Channel waters closed over Prince William of Normandy and his nobles, no ocean tragedy approaches that of Sunday last in its list of notable dead. Through all the sorrow and the horror that the story brings, however, comes as well a thrill of pride that in this record disaster is no trace of aught but brave manhood; not an incident but what is creditable to rescued and lost alike.

WHEN WILL DECENCY ASSERT ITSELF.

The Advertiser this morning gives as much of the detail as is permissible to print of a story related in the juvenile court yesterday by three little Hawaiian girls, the victims, as they claim, of a ravisher. The children tell their story without hesitation, being apparently wholly unconscious of its revolting nature. This is the worst feature of the affair.

Good citizens of Honolulu may not be aware of the fact that the story of these three children is a fairly common one in this Christian city. It is a fact, well known to the police and to those whose work brings them into close contact with the slums of Honolulu, that young Hawaiian girls are so frequently the victims of such affairs that yesterday's horrible story comes as a routine report. Almost, it is safer in Hawaii to criminally assault a young girl than it is to beat a board bill, to our shame be it said.

At this moment, in the Sick Children's Hospital, are two tiny girls, babies almost, being treated for injuries received at the hands of some male brute. Both babies were not only ravished but were given a horrible disease. A Chinaman, under arrest for the crime, has had his trial postponed several times already, and those who remember back to the notorious Lane case, where the city attorney not only refused to prosecute except on a minor charge but actually fought a grand jury and the attorney-general who tried to force a prosecution, are sceptical as to whether the case will come to a real trial or not.

For the sake of the protection of the young girls of this community—white as well as Hawaiian, because some of the recent cases of outrages involve white girls—is it not time that the decent citizens insisted upon a vigorous prosecution in such cases and demanded maximum punishments for examples?

A community that can not protect the chastity of its girls has no claim to be called civilized.

THIS "RESIGNATION" TALK.

The Advertiser trusts, in all sincerity, that the many reports in circulation regarding the near resignation of Delegate Kuhio, the switching of party allegiance on the part of many Republican Hawaiians and the other reports of resentment over the result of Monday's convention are not well founded. It would be a pitiful declaration to declare that there is one section of the Republican party of Hawaii that can not take a beating manfully, but must whine and "refuse to play" unless babied along and given everything it cries for.

Prince Kuhio, whatever else anyone may think of him and his extraordinary political course of the past few months, has never yet done that which would earn for him the title of "quitter." The suggestion of his friends that he might prove to be one in this first boxing clash with the majority of the party is something the Delegate has not merited.

Of course, if Kuhio is the quitting kind, willing to leave Washington again when the interests of Hawaii demand that everyone who can help in the least in the sugar tariff fight be on the ground, then the sooner it is known the better. If those who fought so well yesterday and lost are the kind of Republicans who will bolt the party unless given their own way in everything, then the party is better off without them.

We do not believe that they are that kind of Republicans.

PRAISE WORTH WHILE.

One of the best descriptions of the last Honolulu Floral Parade that has appeared in print, and one that will be widely read by those whom Hawaii wants most to interest, is published in the current number of The Outlook, in the "Spectator's" corner. The preface of the article says:

What an atmosphere of tropical verdure, balmy air, and sunny skies surrounded the Spectator yesterday as he read a letter from a young niece in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, telling of the way they celebrate Washington's Birthday in that land of perpetual summer! It did the Spectator's heart good to hear of the patriotism displayed, not only by the Americans, and other nationalities seemingly Americanized, but even by the Japanese, who entered into the spirit and added in a unique manner to the general celebration. When the account arrived, America was in the midst of a bleak and muddy spring, with winter still sitting in her lap, and the color and youthful enthusiasm of the letter pleased the Spectator.

OVERDRESSED SCHOOL CHILDREN.

"There is a tendency on the part of the older high-school pupils to over-dress and adopt the styles and fashions that make them seem more mature in nature and appearance. The younger pupils are quick to imitate the dress and manners of their older schoolmates. This leads them into indiscretions and robs them of an important part of childhood. The expense of overdressing falls heavily upon most families and tends to discourage many parents from keeping their children in school."

These assertions are made in a circular of information just issued for free distribution by the United States Bureau of Education, which deals with an educational experiment at Dayton, Ohio, whereby the school children are segregated in a special high school for their first year after graduation from grammar school. "In this school," says the circular of information, "there are no older pupils, and the simplicity of childhood is maintained in dress and manner for another year. The children are able to develop more naturally without the influence of older pupils."

A LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Marston Campbell, the retiring superintendent of public works, has done much good work for the Territory during the years of his incumbency. When he took office the Territory had the Nuuanu reservoir muddle on its hands and a number of other things that required capable planning and good executive ability to straighten out, to which task Mr. Campbell devoted himself and made good. During his term there has been little to complain of, the one fault of the incumbent being that his desire to do all that was needed led him into promising more than any three men could carry out, with the result that what he actually did was lost sight of by the unthinking because of those things he found impossible to carry out as desired. However, now that he has decided to leave the government, he will be remembered for the much he did during his term. The government is losing a capable man, whose chief fault was in allowing his desire to do everything outrun the limit of accomplishment.

THE GREAT GAME PROCEEDS.

Winston Churchill, the British first lord of the admiralty, officially tendered the olive branch to Germany some weeks ago, suggesting in the name of common sense and for the sake of the taxpayers of each nation that each drop a year from its naval building program. Germany's answer was quick and to the point, with an announcement that Great Britain might mind her own business and that Germany intended to still further increase her navy and her army. Now comes Great Britain's reply, made by the peace advocate, Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer.

Winston Churchill told Germany that Great Britain was prepared to build more and stronger ships of war if necessary. Now, the imperial treasurer confirms his words, announcing in the name of the cabinet that the surplus of \$32,000,000 cash on hand is to go into a naval emergency fund, ready to be spent over and above the regular naval appropriation as soon as it is certain that the German increase is to be carried out. In the great international game, this shoving of thirty-two millions into the pot as one bet is a dramatic move, especially as it comes coupled with the statement that back of it there is more if it be necessary to produce it.

The British press acclaims the declaration of Lloyd George. The naval editor of the Daily Telegraph says there is no reason to expect that in the present financial year any supplementary estimates put forward by the admiralty will be large in amount, but next year and in the following years the increased burden which will be thrown upon naval votes will be exceedingly enormous.

In these circumstances, there is reason to believe that the exchequer, by drawing upon the new fund, will be relieved of the necessity of proposing fresh taxation in 1913 and 1914. The editor adds: "It is not yet apparently fully realized in this country how grave the new situation threatens to become, how heavy will be the additional expense thrown upon the British exchequer, how serious the aspect of the German navy bill in that the striking force of Germany in the North Sea and in the Baltic is about to be increased by fifty per cent, and in order to achieve this end the personnel will be strengthened annually during the next three years by nearly six thousand men. The scheme also includes provision of larger torpedo and submarine flotillas and general expansion of naval establishment which in the course of the next six years will cast upon German votes over and above provision made by naval law expenditures of about eleven million sterling. If the German reichstag stakes upon this increase—and taxpayers throughout the world will still hope it may not so decide—it is a matter of simple arithmetic to calculate approximately what the additional burden upon the British voters will be, now that the admiralty have decided that we must maintain a fleet between sixty and seventy per cent stronger than the next strongest fleet in the world."

"By the act announced yesterday the cabinet at least appreciates the serious responsibility which rests upon their shoulders and throughout the navy there will be a feeling of keen satisfaction, for it is apparent that when Mr. Churchill spoke at Glasgow he was using no hasty, ill-considered words of warning, but giving utterance to a policy, deliberately, carefully elaborated to meet any possible development which may threaten our supremacy."

The London Standard, commenting on the announcement, draws comfort from the fact that the Colonies are standing ready to back the Mother Country with men and ships and commends the suggestion that comes from Canada that an imperial board of admiralty be established, with the various British nations represented. The Standard says: "It may be confidently hoped that we are on the eve of solving a problem, which, but for patriotism of overseas nations, might long have continued to perplex our statesmen. The burden of imperial defence is growing too heavy for our small island, but the abundant resources of Anglo-Saxondom at large can be brought to bear without jealousy or waste of strength on the common object. The British Empire will present an impregnable front to the world."

THE INVASION OF THE DARDANELLES.

The announcement yesterday that the Italian fleet has entered the Dardanelles and is bombarding some of the Turkish forts is of extreme significance, indicating that Italy has at last resolved to bring Turkey to terms even at the risk of offending the Powers. No war vessels except those of Turkey have been allowed to enter the Straits since the conclusion of the Crimean War, fifty-six years ago, at which time Russia had to submit to the humiliating terms dictated by Great Britain, France, Turkey and Sardinia, which forbade the use of the Dardanelles to all but Turkish warships, and which forbade the fortifying of any of the ports of the Black Sea. As a consequence, Russia can not reinforce her Black Sea fleet except by building and can never combine her Black Sea fleet with her Baltic fleet.

Not long since, Turkey notified the Powers that the Dardanelles would be closed each night at sunset against all vessels. The fact that the northern entrance was closed as well as that of the south was regarded as meaning only one thing, that Turkey feared that Russia might suddenly become an ally of Italy and that some morning Constantinople would wake up to find an Italian fleet with guns trained upon the Sultan's palace and with warships flying the Russian flag lying side by side with those of Italy. Otherwise there would be no object in closing the Black Sea entrance of the Dardanelles to commercial vessels at night.

A few years ago any such action on the part of Turkey would not have been tolerated for one moment by the great Powers of Europe and by the United States. The Porte would have been curtly informed that their joint guarantee of the neutrality of the Dardanelles, and of the territorial integrity of the Ottoman empire, rendered unnecessary any such precautions that necessarily constitute a hindrance to navigation. But the Powers are no longer able to refer to their guarantee of the territorial integrity of Turkey, since Italy has seized Tripoli and Britain persists in retaining a military occupation of Egypt, which is also a Turkish province.

Then, too, there is Italy to be considered. From motives of deference to its allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, and to its excellent friend and ally, Great Britain, it had, until yesterday, endeavored as much as possible to limit the sphere of hostilities in its war against Turkey. It was entirely on their account that Italy did not at the outbreak of the conflict blockade the entrance to the Dardanelles. But that would have subjected England, France, Germany and Austria, and more especially Russia, to the greatest inconvenience and to enormous commercial and industrial losses.

It has now, however, probably been finally brought home to the Powers that, having thus the means within reach of immediately stopping the war by either blockading the Dardanelles or else by leveling its guns upon Constantinople, Italy could not, in any reason, be expected to delay day after day, week after week, and month after month, bringing matters to a crisis, each day of the continuance of the war constituting an enormous drain upon the national exchequer at Rome.

For months, Italy has been in the position of having a fleet without a chance to use it in any adequate way, while the Turkish fortifications along the Dardanelles and along the Adriatic have been more or less immune from attack because of the intimations of the Powers that any expedition against Turkey-in-Europe might arouse the Christian provinces of Turkey into open revolt and precipitate upon Europe a great war. This, any upsetting of the balance of power, could easily bring about, with the tension in and around Turkey as it is.

The entry of the Italian fleet yesterday into the Dardanelles then may mean that Turkey will come to terms at once, or it may mean the putting of the torch to the tinder and the general conflagration of war between the Powers so frequently predicted over the Balkan situation.

THE PASSING HOUR.

Evidently we've got to stop kicking that dog around.

Defending a billboard because it hides a lot that needs cleaning up is like admiring the fancy socks on a man who hasn't washed his feet.

A contemporary is worried lest the campaign to "Kill Kuhio" is to continue. It needn't worry. What is on now are the funeral arrangements.

A number of the sugar publications of Europe publish the figures of the Hawaiian production with a question mark. The facts are too much for their credulity.

It is passing strange that so many of the great mainland papers make the mistake of saying that Secretary Fisher is coming to Hawaii to investigate the charges made against Governor Frear by the Delegate, when one or two of us here know so much better.

A convention that should produce results to affect every nook and corner of the United States and Canada and exert an influence broad enough to cross the oceans on either side begins today in New York City. This is the Christian Conservation Congress of the Men and Religion Forward Movement, at which will be present delegates from all parts of the Union and the Dominion, with special delegates from Great Britain. President Taft, William J. Bryan, Miss Jane Addams, John Mitchell and other leaders in thought and "Christian conservation" work will be among the speakers.

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QUESTION OF SCHOOL EFFICIENCY

Editor Advertiser:—The question of whether public schools are even approximately on a basis of 36 per cent efficiency should be a matter of wide public concern. That it should be possible for so painstaking a school man as the writer of the "attack" in your issue of April 8th to have misled himself so fundamentally in the matter of "percentage of promotions" in schools leads to the belief that it is possible the public might be misled in a like way.

Your correspondent, observing that for every 100 pupils in first grade in 1909 there are 38 in second grade in 1910, concludes that 38 per cent of the first graders in 1909 had made second in 1910. That is, the rate of annual promotions is 38 per cent.

Again observing that for every 100 pupils in first grade in 1908 there were 36 in second grade in 1910, he concludes that "36 per cent of those pupils reckoned in grade one in 1908 has reached second grade in 1910." That is, the rate of biennial promotions is 36 per cent, or the rate of annual promotions is 18 per cent.

If this reasoning were sound it could be extended. Observing that for every 100 pupils in first grade in 1906 there were 43 in second grade in 1910, one could argue that 43 per cent of pupils had been promoted in the four-year period. That is, the rate of quadrennial promotions is 43 per cent, or the average annual rate of promotions is 10.75 per cent.

This method of computation, then, yields three diverse conclusions as to "the percentage of promotions" for periods ending with 1910 as follows:

1. The rate of annual promotions is 38 per cent.
2. The rate of annual promotions is 18 per cent.
3. The rate of annual promotions is 10.75 per cent.

Of course, these propositions are entirely absurd. And of course the crux of the matter lies in the fact that what your correspondent has been calling "the percentage of promotions" is in reality nothing of the sort, that it is not even a ratio of distribution of pupils in grades, and that when one gets a percentage figure by comparison of numbers in grades otherwise than by comparing numbers of pupils in grades in the same year or in two consecutive years, one gets a figure that comes about as near to representing the per-

centage of promotions as it does to representing the price of sugar or the percentage of sucrose. If in any instance the figures were approximately true to the facts this would be due rather to a fortuitous coincidence of unrelated numbers than to any value in the method employed.

It might be that an individual here or there may have resented any implication that he was expected to do anything in particular or to do it in any particular time, but that any school men have been refusing to obey orders might well be doubted; that they could not have made such refusal in connection with any orders to make promotions is obvious from the fact that no such orders have been issued. An inquiry instituted to discover the prevailing practice of schools in the matter of promotions is a far cry from instructions to make unwarranted promotions. It has doubtless been assumed that schools do, as a matter of ordinary administration, make promotions annually. That which has been done in the matter is looking to putting the question of promotions on a proper statistical basis that will make forever unnecessary further use of crude estimate or of mere guessing. And your correspondent ought to be among the first to welcome the result of actual count.

I shall never advocate hiding our heads in the sand, and I am as ready to face the facts as another, but I am of opinion there may be disadvantage in oversteering, our delinquencies as there is in ignoring them.

Our schools are in communities that have as yet no special schools for defectives. The common school must receive the deaf and dumb, the lame, the halt and the blind, and the feeble-minded. Absolute standards could not under the circumstances be maintained. But the great body of public school teachers believe in the doctrine of a day's work for a day's wage, in doing a year's work in a year's time. They expect as a matter of course to make good in the matter of bringing whole classes up to the point where they may be successfully promoted, and they will inquire as earnestly into reasons of failures to maintain a reasonable and normal rate of promotions as will those who supervise the work of schools, and they would not be satisfied in well-organized schools to make much less than 90 per cent average of annual promotions.

These teachers ought not to be subjected to discouragements. The doctrine ought not to go out among teachers or the public that those schools professing such normal rate of progress are to be subjected without investigation or discrimination to a suspicion of forcing promotions for the sake of a paper showing. Those who have had much experience in the supervision of schools appear to concur in the opinion that the schools that make 80 or 90 per cent of annual promotions show very generally less of shoddy work than do the schools that have made the lower percentages of promotions.

Spiritual values can not always or even generally be fully measured in terms of dollars or of percentages. But it is nevertheless true that we are only just beginning to realize the extent to which business methods may profitably be applied in the matter of school administration. The time is at hand when to administer a school on a basis of 35 or 50 or 65 per cent of promotions will be considered an unprofitable administration. To bring up an entire family of children observing normal standards of conduct is no more wearing to the mother of the family than it would be for her to train 35 per cent of her children and let the rest of them go to the devil. It is not so very different in the case of the conscientious teacher. Much talk about the laying of burdens on teachers does not, I believe, greatly appeal to the best teachers. In fact, as Friedrich Paulsen has pointed out, it is not work that causes overfatigue so much as lack of interest. And lack of interest in teaching is a pretty sure outgrowth of monotony, the thrashing of old straw, the lack of a stimulating and sustaining sense of progress.

According to the latest available information on the subject, the graded public schools of the Territory, the schools of three or four rooms or larger, are making under supervision a rate of progress that is measured by 80 or 90 per cent of promotions or better. Whether the teaching is as good as it should be is a right subject for inquiry, and whether promotions in a particular case were warranted or not is a proper subject for inquiry. But it can not be said that the rate of promotions, generally speaking, is abnormally high or abnormally low. It appears to be as it should be. It calls not for discouragement but for congratulations. If it is discouragement one is looking for, the search might more profitably be turned in other directions. April 16, 1912. ISAAC M. COX.

After hearing four witnesses last evening the coroner's jury investigating the death of Harvey W. Chase rendered its verdict. It held that the deceased came to his death accidentally in falling from a staging at the College of Hawaii, death being due to a fracture of the skull at the base of the brain.

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